



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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WSDA presenters to be part of ag and water quality conference in Yakima Nov. 19-20

OLYMPIA – Washington State Department of Agriculture Director Valoria Loveland will join Idaho Director Pat Takasugi and Lisa Hanson, assistant director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, on a panel to address agricultural issues, water quality and water management. Their presentation is part of the fourth Agriculture and Water Quality in the Pacific Northwest Conference set for Nov. 19-20 in Yakima. The conference, scheduled at the Yakima Convention Center, will bring agricultural, environmental and government organizations together to clarify and develop cooperative policies for agricultural water quality issues.

“This is a good opportunity for local farmers to get answers to questions they may have on key policy issues affecting agriculture,” said Rod Baker, an agricultural chemical specialist at the Washington State Department of Agriculture. “We want to attract as many Yakima Basin area growers as possible.”

The conference offers 15 sessions on a variety of topics, including riparian buffer zones, DDT in the Yakima River Basin, irrigation management, dairy waste management, changes in quality standards for water temperature, and irrigation management. Speakers will also discuss new rules surrounding the federal Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and changes in permit requirements for animal feeding operations and confined animal feeding operations.

Other WSDA presenters include Bridget Moran, environmental toxicologist and endangered species coordinator, who will discuss a process used for evaluating pesticides in surface waters for potential impacts to salmonids. Kirk Cook, water quality protection manager, will discuss agricultural land use and water quality protection.

Registration forms are available on the Internet at www.agwaterqualitynw.org or by contacting the Agriculture and Water Quality Conference, c/o Far West Agribusiness Association, E 111 Magnesium Rd., Suite C, Spokane, WA 99208 or calling (509) 465-5055. The conference cost is \$140 for those who pre-register and \$185 for those who register at the door. The fee includes two lunches and one dinner.

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